Testimony of
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CTIA
Support with Amendments House Bill 7152
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Before the Connecticut Joint Energy and Technology Committee

Co-Chair Needleman, Co-Chair Arconti, and members of the Committee, on behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I am here to express our support with amendments to House Bill 7152. House Bill 7152 outlines a laudable goal: seeking to create a new process for the deployment of personal wireless service facilities, including small wireless infrastructure, on state assets. The legislation is well-intentioned, but there are concerns some of the provisions in House Bill 7152 may have negative unintended consequences. We look forward to working with the Administration and this committee to address these concerns.

The people of Connecticut continue to demand – at increasing rates of usage – access to wireless products and services. The fact that there are more wireless devices in Connecticut than there are people is apt evidence.[1] In fact, over one third of Connecticut residents already live in wireless-only households.[2] Wireless industry's customers – your constituents – and the prevalence of mobile usage require wireless networks be both updated to meet existing demand and readied for the next generation of technology.

Specifically, the existing rules governing wireless networks are designed for wireless facilities that can be up to 200 feet or more. Tomorrow's networks will rely on new small cell technology which will be placed on structures such as utility poles and streetlights. These new networks need new rules and HB 7152 establishes a common sense framework for deployment on state facilities.

Small cells will provide needed additional capacity to accommodate growing consumer demands and help connect 100 times more devices. In a few short years, nearly everything will be connected to ubiquitous wireless networks at speeds up to 100 times faster than today. Small cells will help unlock new 5G services from remote healthcare solutions to autonomous cars. Connecticut's communities will be smarter and more connected, and entire sectors, from public safety to tourism, to transportation, will be transformed.

[1] FCC, Voice Telephone Services Report: Status as of June 30, 2017, at https://www.fcc.gov/voice-telephone-services-report, last accessed 3/1/2019.
[2] CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/wireless_state_201712.pdf, last accessed 3/1/2019.

Accenture has found that 5G and small cell deployments will provide tremendous economic benefits. Specifically, Accenture estimates that wireless operators will invest as much as $275 billion nationwide over seven years creating up to three million jobs and adding approximately $500 billion to the U.S. GDP through direct and indirect potential benefits.[3] In Connecticut, 5G deployment in a community like Bridgeport may create over 1,300 jobs and increase GDP by over $220 million, and a community like Hartford may create over 1,100 jobs and increase GDP by over $185 million.[4]

In 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recognized the importance of winning the global race to 5G and the need to expedite the deployment of small wireless infrastructure to help reach that goal. With its issuance of the State and Local Wireless Infrastructure Declaratory Ruling and Third Report and Order (Order), the FCC set guardrails – including clear timelines and cost-based fees – around state and local siting practices.[5] These reforms are timely and necessary, and they provide clarity to both communities and applicants while respecting the important role that states and localities continue to play in the siting process.

While the FCC's leadership in this action and others is critical, states play a key role in operationalizing provisions of the Order. Notably, approximately a dozen states are expected to consider legislation this year that would ensure compliance with the FCC Order's shot clocks by adopting "permitted use" regimes. The "permitted use" construct ensures that a zoning hearing is not required for every submitted small cell application. A zoning hearing for every small cell application would drain local resources and treat small cells like 200-foot macro cell towers, thereby delaying deployment, and more importantly, delaying the benefits of enhanced wireless services and 5G for citizens. While state agencies and their assets are not subject to municipal zoning, House Bill 7152 mirrors this expedited review process by proposing date-certain action after an application has been filed.

In closing, CTIA and our members support House Bill 7152 with amendments. We applaud the Administration for their leadership in recognizing the importance of a streamlined regulatory framework for the deployment of 5G wireless facilities. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Administration and interested stakeholders to move House Bill 7152 forward.

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[3] "How 5G Can Help Municipalities Become Vibrant Smart Cities," Accenture Strategy, Jan 12, 2017, https://newsroom.accenture.com/content/1101/files/Accenture_5G-Municipalities-Become-Smart-Cities.pdf, last accessed 3/1/2019.

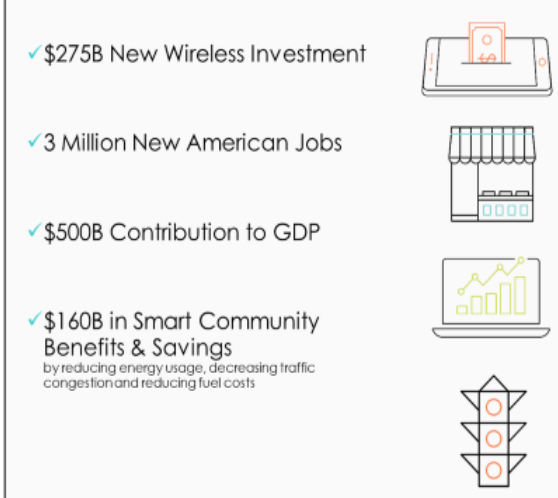
[4] *Ibid.*

[5] See https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-18-133A1.pdf; last accessed 3/1/2019.

5G Economic Benefits: Connecticut

- **Bridgeport**
  - Over 1,350 jobs created
  - $120 million in estimated network investment
  - $223 million in estimated GDP growth
- **New Haven**
  - Over 1,200 jobs created
  - $108 million in estimated network investment
  - Nearly $200 million in estimated GDP growth
- **Stamford**
  - 1,221 jobs created
  - Over $100 million in estimated network investment
  - $199 million in estimated GDP growth
- **Hartford**
  - Over 1,100 jobs created
  - $101 million in estimated network investment
  - Over $185 million in estimated GDP growth
- **Waterbury**
  - Over 1,000 jobs created
  - Nearly $90 million in estimated network investment
  - $165 million in estimated GDP growth
- **Norwalk**
  - Over 830 jobs created
  - $73 million in estimated network investment
  - $136 million in estimated GDP growth

Improving Communities Across America, from small towns to big cities.



- ✓$275B New Wireless Investment
- ✓3 Million New American Jobs
- ✓$500B Contribution to GDP
- ✓$160B in Smart Community Benefits & Savings
  by reducing energy usage, decreasing traffic congestion and reducing fuel costs

Source: https://newsroom.accenture.com/news/new-research-from-accenture-strategy-highlights-economic-and-societal-impact-of-investing-in-5g-infrastructure.htm